

Mt. KULASKI, 144.

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Illinois

Illinois Towns

Mount Pulaski

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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NEW LINCOLN MONIAL

Court House Where He Practiced in Illinois Becomes Shrine

N. Y. Times, 2/12/32
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 11 (AP).—

A new memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the old Mount Pulaski court house, will be opened tomorrow on the 130th anniversary of his birth.

It was in this court house that "Old Abe" argued law cases while he was a circuit rider.

Thousands of persons visited the Civil War President's tomb today or attended gatherings honoring his memory.

Services tomorrow include an address by Stephen F. Chadwick, national commander of the American Legion, and a talk from New York by Raymond Massey, who impersonates Lincoln in a current play.

PEORIA ILL JOURNAL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1931.

... OF THE NOKOMIS State
bank at Nokomis.

Dedicate Lincoln Tablet At Mt. Pulaski Friday

MT. PULASKI, Ill., Feb. 12. (Special)—The dedication of the Abraham Lincoln tablet donated by the Business Men's club and recently placed on the outer south wall of the courthouse, will take place on Friday afternoon, February 13.

A program is being arranged by the Business Men's club and the Mt. Pulaski Woman's club.

Abraham Lincoln Tablet on the Old Logan County Court House, Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. Dedicated by Judge Lawrence B. Stringer

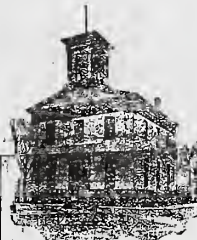


LOGAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE
1848-1855
IN THIS BUILDING DURING ITS
USE AS A COURT HOUSE

Abraham Lincoln

PRACTICED LAW CONTINUOUSLY AS HE TRAVELED THE CIRCUIT OF THE OLD EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. THE SQUARE UPON WHICH THIS BUILDING STANDS WAS DEDICATED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1836 BY JABEZ CAPPS, GEORGE W. TURLEY, BARTON ROBINSON AND OTHERS, PROPRIETORS OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF MT. PULASKI, AND THIS BUILDING WAS ERRECTED THEREON IN 1848 WITH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED WHOLLY BY THE PIONEER SETTLERS OF MT. PULASKI AND VICINITY.

ERECTED BY
BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB.



A scene of unusual importance was connected in Mt. Pulaski, Logan county, Illinois, on the afternoon of Friday, February 13, 1931, when the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Tablet on the south side of the old Logan court house building was dedicated with impressive ceremonies by Judge Lawrence B. Stringer, of Lincoln, Illinois, who presented a wonderful address on the local phase of Abraham Lincoln's life, a talk that contained much historical interest regarding this old building in which the martyred President often practiced law.

Lincoln's birthday anniversary was on Thursday, February 12th, but the occasion came one day later, as Judge Stringer had been secured to give a talk on Abraham Lincoln before the Mt. Pulaski Woman's Club on Friday afternoon in the American Legion rooms in the second story of this old historic building, so the two programs were arranged for the same afternoon.

The above inscription has been banked on a cast bronze tablet, purchased by the Business Men's Club of Mt. Pulaski for \$300, and placed on the west side of the south door of the old Logan County Court House building, now occupied by the United States Postoffice, and the American Legion. The tablet is 30 inches high and 24 inches wide, and is considered a beautiful piece of work.

The inscription was written by Judge Lawrence B. Stringer, of Lincoln, Illinois, who is an authority on Logan County history, and a student of Abraham Lincoln.

A plan to eventually restore the old court house building to its original place should interest every man, woman and child in this community.

This move of the Business Men's Club in placing this attractive marker so that everyone may know that Abraham Lincoln has trod this ground, is most worthy and should inspire the whole community to get behind the movement to dedicate the whole building to the memory of Lincoln.

The ceremonies for the Unveiling of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Tablet commenced promptly at 2 p. m., on the south side of the building. Many people of Mt. Pulaski and vicinity gathered in the public square to pay honor to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and in the assembled crowd were the pupils of Mt. Pulaski Township High School and the Mt. Pulaski Grade School, who took part in the program, which was as follows:

Reception of the speaker, Judge Lawrence B. Stringer, of Lincoln. Meeting called to order by Mayor B. H. Keck, who briefly explained the purpose of the meeting.

All joined in singing "America," accompanied by the Township High School Band.

Immediately after the closing of this song, the Commanding Officer of the American Legion, Dr. C. M. Merriman, with his guard of honor, composed of George Meister, Frank Penelman, Leroy K. Buckles, Floyd R. Downing, Frank Buehler and Errol Ryan, removed the folds, American flags, covering the Memorial Tablet, exposing it to full view.

Following this imposing ceremony, the band played "America, the Beautiful," and then sang this song:

The Mayor introduced Judge Stringer, who gave a fine address, saying in part:

"I congratulate the Business Men's Association of Mt. Pulaski on this occasion. The marking of this historic court house by a suitable tablet is a worthy and progressive undertaking. I consider it a distinguished honor to



JUDGE LAWRENCE B. STRINGER

have been selected to dedicate this memorial and am profoundly grateful for the privilege.

"The early history of this county in which we live and the early career of Abraham Lincoln impinge upon each other where they do not actually run in parallel grooves.

"Abraham Lincoln was Logan county's survivor, Logan county's lawyer, and Logan county's friend. He was the author and creator of the county, for it was his Legislative bill which gave it civic life, marked out its boundaries and gave it a name.

"He was the official lawyer of the county, as the records show, from its establishment until he departed for Washington, and he followed its legal fortunes in many cases to the Supreme Court of the state.

"He was the intimate friend of the early settlers in the Salt creek valley, he visited their homes, knew them by their first name, tried their lawsuits, entertained them with his ready wit, and inspired them with his homespun wisdom.

"This structure before which I stand is a monument to Mr. Lincoln's activities in one of the formative periods of his life. Every piece of timber in this structure is historically sacred with sentiment and holy remembrance. It speaks forth the name of Abraham Lincoln from every angle and every contour.

"In this building, for a period of

seventeen years, Abraham Lincoln continuously practiced law. It was the period of his life when he was dialectically the lawyer rather than the politician or the statesman. In the legal causes contested in this building, he was on one side or the other of every important ferocious struggle.

"In this building he stood before Judge David Davis, who presided continuously over the Mt. Pulaski circuit court—the same Davis whom Mr. Lincoln, as President, later appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and who was still later United States Senator, and acting Vice President of the Nation. In this building Mr. Lincoln established substantive law which has since been followed in every state in the Union.

"In the earlier history of this county, the county had had four court houses in which Mr. Lincoln practiced law. Of these only one remains intact upon its original site. That one is the structure before me which now glorifies this hill by reason of its presence.

"As a building in which Mr. Lincoln practiced his profession for a continuous period, this court house has but one competitor now standing on the soil of Illinois, but in continuity, length of time and importance of that practice, it has no competitor anywhere on the face of the earth.

"When the walls of this building rang with the eloquence of Abraham Lincoln, the voice that was heard was of a Lincoln of more or less local significance. The Abraham Lincoln of today is of much wider significance. The Lincoln of today is a Lincoln of no isolated environment. The Lincoln of today is the Lincoln of the whole civilized world.

"The Lincoln of today is the Lincoln of no particular political party, of no clique nor set nor section, of no narrow groove of thought or personal action. He is the Lincoln of the world's history. He belongs to the ages.

"Abraham Lincoln grew as his world widened. The world of his boyhood was the valley of the Ohio. The world of his young manhood was the valley of the Mississippi proper from the Sangamon to the Gulf. The world of his congressional career was nation wide. The world of his Presidency was the whole round globe, and the issues he faced and his manner of facing them gave him internationality and immortality.

"Kentucky gave him to Indiana as the embodiment of the inland streams. Indiana gave him to Illinois as the forest ranger. Illinois, having tried and tested him, gave him to the Nation as a savior. The Republic, in its turn, gave him to the world as the Morning Star of Humanity.

"Definitely connected, however, as this building is with the early career of Abraham Lincoln, it is a standing monument to the great achievements of the Illinois pioneers in general.

"One hundred years ago, these prairies surrounding this hill were in a large measure untitled, unmapped, unrounded and undeveloped. Remnants of ancient Indian tribes often hovered about. Large stretches of timber housed animals still wild in their nature. Marshes were un drained and civilized habitations were few and far between.

"Ninety-five years ago, Jabez Capps and other pioneers laid out a town upon this hill and gave it the name of a Revolutionary hero. The centennial of the town is but five years distant. The proprietors of the town wisely dedicated this square to public purposes. It has been so devoted to this day.

"To this square, in 1848, the early settlers of the county voted the seat of county justice. Upon this square, through the generosity of the settlers in and about Mt. Pulaski, this court house was erected. It was one of the achievements of that hardy band of pioneers who laid the foundations of civilization in what we now call Logan county.

"What a debt of gratitude we owe to these pioneers? Who can fitly commemorate their heroism and devotion? History has immortalized the deeds of men who have shown valor in the wars of centuries. The roar of cannon and the clash of arms have furnished the theme for many an ancient story.

"But the pioneer scouts of American progress, braving the dangers of frontier life, the beasts of prey, the red lords of the wild, the pestilence and the famine, that homes might be made for those they love, that posterity might revel in plenty and that over the paths which they blazed the mighty march of progress might move triumphantly on, these men and women deserve to be canonized in the cathedral of liberty and their names retold to generations yet unborn.

"In the name, then, of these pioneers, in the name of this noble band of men and women, in the name of Abraham Lincoln, the chiefest pioneer of them all, in the name of generations past and generations yet to come, it is my proud privilege today to dedicate this tablet to the world and to the posterity, that he who runs may read and understand, and it is my fervent hope and prayer that it may remain where it is affixed this day until time shall be no more."

Following the eloquent address of Judge Stringer, the entire assemblage accompanied by the band, joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner," bringing this important occasion to a fitting close.

W. H. STAFFORD SERIOUSLY SICK
W. H. Stafford, superintendent of the water supply system, who has been sick for three weeks, remains in a serious condition.

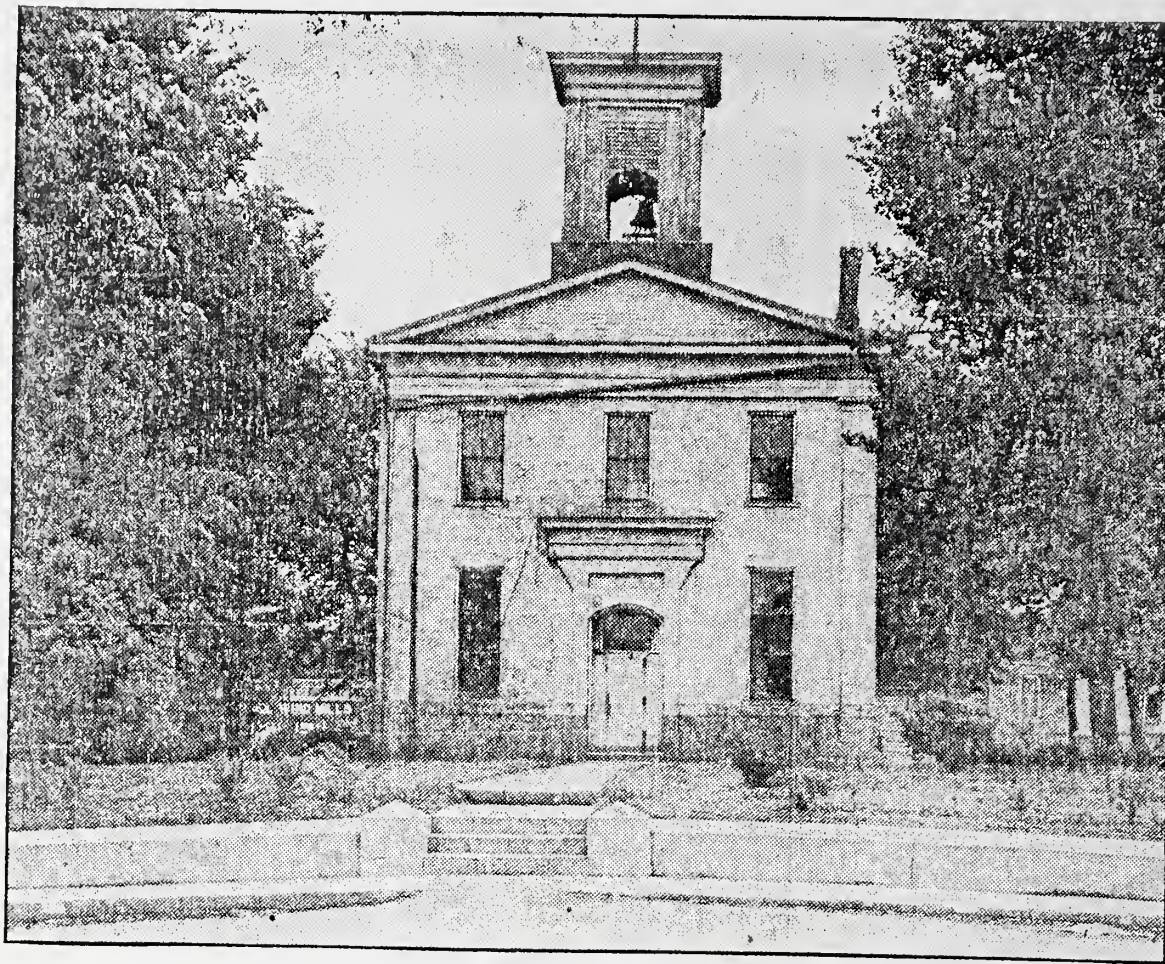
A short time later Mr. Capps, Dr. Robinson and George Turley visited the "old hill" and a townsite company was formed, including those three men, James Robinson, J. F. Davis, Alexander Lindsay, James Scott, George McDaniels and George

coln was established and the seat of county government was transferred to the new town.

The Mt. Pulaski court house then became a public school and was used for that purpose until 1877. For about 45 years the first floor of the old

1836—ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER CENTENNIAL—1936

Building at Mt. Pulaski Where Lincoln Held Court



Above is the old Logan county court house at Mt. Pulaski, where Abraham Lincoln as a struggling circuit rider, practiced law. After the county seat was moved to Lincoln the building was for some time used as a school and later as a post office until it was recently taken over by the state to be restored as a Lincoln Memorial. The state has agreed to restore it to the condition it was in at the time Lincoln used it.

Mt. Pulaski, Founded By Group From Springfield, Is Hundred Years Old

By PAUL E. BEIDLER

State Register Special Service

MT. PULASKI, Ill.—A hundred years as a trading point and a city is marked this year by Mt. Pulaski, which came into existence in 1836 when Jabez Capps and a group of Springfield friends established a town on a hill.

Mt. Pulaski has always been a good, substantial city, a place of many good homes and a world of fine trees. Situated on a hill in the Illinois prairie, about 100 feet higher than the surrounding country, it gives a commanding view of some of the state's most fertile lands. It has always been an agricultural community, which accounts largely for the fact that the city has never grown to one of greater population. There are about 1,450 residents in the city.

The march of time has changed conditions for many central Illinois towns as men with large families have sought employment in centers of greater population and activity. Through the past 40 years Mt. Pulaskians have located in Springfield, Decatur, Bloomington and Chicago, and in fact former residents are now located in practically every state of the union.

At the time Springfield was established in 1820, pioneer families from Kentucky began to settle along the timber line on Lake Fork, southwest of Mt. Pulaski and on Salt Creek, north of the present site of Mt. Pulaski and had to travel many miles to a trading point.

When the village was founded in 1836 these rugged settlers aided in the growth of the new town and within a few years it had become a place of more than 300 persons.

Jabez Capps Founder

The history of the founding of Mt. Pulaski centers about its founder, Jabez Capps. He was born in London, England, on Sept. 19, 1796. Coming to the United States in 1817, he finally located in Calhoun in 1820, the early Sangamon county town which began and became a part of Springfield. Here Mr. Capps lived until 1836, being one of Springfield's pioneer merchants and one of its first school teachers.

Mr. Capps married Prudence Ann Stafford in Springfield in 1829 and four sons were born to this union. His home in Springfield was where the Alton railroad station now stands.

Living at Mr. Capps' home was his brother-in-law, Dr. Alexander Shields. In the spring of 1836, Dr. Shields was called on a professional trip to a point northeast of the present site of Mt. Pulaski. Upon seeing the hill, it appeared to him as a monument set in the prairie.

On his return to Springfield he told Mr. Capps what he had seen and expressed the opinion that the hill would make an excellent site for a new town. Dr. Barton Robinson, then living in Buffalo Hart, heard the conversation and at once became interested.

Rice, all residents of Springfield and vicinity.

Land Entered

As agent for the townsite company, Barton Robinson, on July 5, 1836 entered 400 acres of land in section 14, township 18, range 2 west, 140 acres of which was to constitute the new townsite.

During the same month Thomas R. Skinner, an assistant county surveyor of Sangamon county and a co-worker with Abraham Lincoln, surveyed the proposed townsite and certified the same. The site included 45 blocks, block 23, the crest of the hill, becoming the public square.

The new town was given the name of Mt. Pulaski in honor of Count Pulaski, who came from Poland and became a Revolutionary war hero. The prefix "Mount" was taken from the fact that the town was constructed on a hill.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Capps married Elizabeth Baker and with his family came to Mt. Pulaski that fall and erected the first building on the west side of the square, a two-story log cabin structure with a store on the first floor and living quarters on the second.

Ten children were born to this second union, three of the original family still living, all resident of Mt. Pulaski. They are William and Harry B. Capps and Mrs. W. H. Stafford. Mr. Capps died in Mt. Pulaski in April, 1896, just five months lacking attaining his hundredth birthday.

Within a couple of years the town began to grow and the country in all directions was entered for settlement.

In the year of 1839 the territory now constituting Logan county was one of three counties created from territory carved from old Sangamon county. Abraham Lincoln was chairman of the committee on counties in the Illinois legislature that year and from his committee came a bill creating these three new counties. Logan county was named for Dr. John Logan of Murphysboro, father of General John A. Logan.

Once County Seat

Postville, now a part of the city of Lincoln, was the first county seat, being established in 1839. In 1847 Mt. Pulaski was voted as the county seat and the following year the old court house still standing in the Mt. Pulaski square, was erected and the seat of county government changed to this place.

Logan county was then a part of the old eighth judicial district, made famous by the circuit itinerary of Abraham Lincoln, the lawyer and Judge David Davis of Bloomington. It is an interesting fact that after Abraham Lincoln became president, he appointed Judge David Davis to the supreme court of the United States. Judge Davis later became U. S. senator and acting vice president.

With the building of the Chicago and Alton railroad, the city of Lin-

structure has been the location of the city postoffice.

In January of this year the building was acquired by the State of Illinois for a Lincoln shrine and the structure is now in the process of being placed in its original condition, the same as when Abraham Lincoln as a lawyer, made many professional visits to the old building.

Mt. Pulaski was an inland town until 1871 when both the old Gilman and Springfield and the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville railroads were built. Both roads are now part of the Illinois Central system. Mt. Pulaski is on state route 121 and the new hard road route 100, proposed to run from Springfield to Clinton, is to pass through the city.

The Phoenix fire department was organized in 1885 and is still a volunteer organization. From its ranks came the state champions in the days of the old tournaments of the Illinois State Firemen's association.

Many Churches

Churches were organized here in the early days and at the present time there are the following denominations: Methodist Episcopal, Christian, Zion Evangelical Lutheran, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Catholic, and the Church of God. Other denominations which have discontinued services here were the Universalist, German Evangelical and the Episcopal church.

While Mt. Pulaski has sent hundreds of substantial people out into the world, the one to become universally known is Vaughn de Leath, known in radio as the first woman's voice to be heard over the air in Europe in broadcasts from the United States. Her career started when DeForest invented the radio tube and she was chosen as the singer for the first tests. Her parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vonderlith of Mt. Pulaski.

This city has long been noted for its various celebrations, outstanding of which was the semi-centennial in September, 1886 and the famous horse shows of more than 20 years ago. Last year, for the first time in more than a score years, the horse shows were brought back to this city and it is now planned to continue them as an annual event.

For more than 40 years Mt. Pulaski has been incorporated as a city, has had a water system for that time and electric lights were first used here in the early 90's.

It is proposed to conduct a centennial celebration in this city this year and a centennial committee has been appointed to work-out details for the event.

INCOMPLETE

LINCOLN VISITED MANY TOWNS AS HE RODE CIRCUIT

**Courthouses At Metamora
And Mt. Pulaski Are
Still Standing.**

Many central Illinois towns were visited by Abraham Lincoln during the years he traveled the Eighth judicial circuit. This circuit covered the whole east central half of the state, and its area varied from time to time.

Today most of these county seats are marked with Lincoln circuit tablets—thick granite slabs four feet high, to which a bronze plaque is attached, presenting his profile with these words:

Abraham Lincoln
Traveled This Way As He Rode The
Circuit Of The

Eighth Judicial District, 1847-1859.

Among the county seats thus marked are: Springfield, Metamora (Woodford county), Lincoln (Logan), Clinton (DeWitt), Urbana (Champaign), Paris (Edgar), Shelbyville (Shelby), Decatur (Macon), Petersburg (Menard), Pekin (Tazewell), Bloomington (McLean), Mt. Pulaski (Logan), Monticello (Piatt), Danville (Vermilion), Charleston (Coles), Sullivan (Moultrie), Taylorville (Christian), and Havana in Mason county.

Lincoln Followed Court.

Court was held twice a year, in spring and fall, and the terms were arranged to come in regular order. Thus the judge moved readily from one court to another, most of the bar following him around. Not all of them, however, rode the entire circuit, as Lincoln did, getting well acquainted with Judge David Davis, who was circuit judge most of the time and whom Lincoln later named to the United States supreme court.

"We were admitted to the bar about the same time," Judge Davis later said of himself and Lincoln, "and traveled for many years what is known in Illinois as the Eighth judicial circuit. In 1848 when I first went on the bench, the circuit embraced fourteen counties, and Mr. Lincoln went with the court to every county. Railroads were not then in use and our mode of travel was either on horseback or in buggies."

Few Courthouses Remain.

County seats at that time contained a population of less than a thousand. Some of the courthouses and many of the jails were log structures. The same towns now have populations of from 5,000 to more than 75,000 and possess attractive, modern courthouses.

Most of these old courthouses are gone now. In Urbana, the present building is constructed around what was the courthouse in Lincoln's day. In quiet Metamora the old courthouse still stands, as well as in Mt. Pulaski—both of them owned by the state as memorials to Lincoln.

Metamora, of course, no longer is the Woodford county seat, nor is Mt. Pulaski the seat of Logan county. The building at Metamora was built of brick, trimmed with walnut, in 1845. Under the roof of this structure at times were Lincoln,

On Eighth Judicial Circuit

Ill. Journal

6/30/36



When Abraham Lincoln traveled the Eighth judicial circuit, he often visited this courthouse at Metamora, then the seat of Woodford county. Since then the county government has been removed to Eureka, but this building still stands, preserved

by the state as a Lincoln shrine. Under this roof were gathered at times Lincoln, Adlai E. Stephenson, Judge David Davis and Robert G. Ingersoll—a future president and vice president, a future supreme court justice and the greatest orator of his time.

Judge Davis, Adlai E. Stevenson and Robert G. Ingersoll—a future president, future vice president, a future supreme court justice and a great orator.

Was Valuable Experience.

Students of Lincoln agree that he developed immensely during the years he rode the circuit. He handled every sort of legal case, and as he rode along he had time for contemplation. Most important, however, were his associations, for the bar in that day represented the most influential group among the citizenry. To many acquaintances he made, he owed much of the support that came to him in later years.

Today each of these circuit towns has its cherished Lincoln stories. He stopped at this hotel or that; he visited this family or that; here it was that he performed such a feat. Because the court was a universal attraction, many saw him practice and many remembered the stories he told, both in and out of court.

Monmouth, Ill.

Ill. State Journal
Was Monmouth Speaker. 3/36
Lincoln spoke in Monmouth in the course of the 1858 senatorial campaign on Oct. 11. Following a selection by the Monmouth Republican Glee club, he was introduced by Philo E. Reed and spoke for three hours.

Springfield, Ill.

New Lincoln Memorial Opens in Springfield

Richmond, Ind. Dispatch
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., (AP)—A new memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the old Mt. Pulaski, Ill., courthouse, will be opened today on the 130th anniversary of his birth.

It was in this courthouse that "Old Abe" argued law cases while he was a circuit rider.

Thousands of persons pilgrimed to the wartime President's tomb yesterday or attended gatherings honoring his memory.

Services today include an address by Stephen F. Chadwick, national commander of the American Legion, and a talk from New York by actor Raymond Massey, who impersonates Lincoln in a current Broadway play.

Abraham Lincoln was probably as well acquainted with the Mt. Pulaski Court House as any building in the old Eighth Circuit. This fine brick building, standing today as it did in Lincoln's time, is maintained as one of Illinois' memorials to its most outstanding citizen.

The court house is an excellent example of Greek revival architecture as found in Illinois. Prominent men associated with this historic building include David Davis, Stephen A. Douglas, Robert G. Ingersoll, John T. Stuart, Stephen T. Logan, William H. Herndon, James C. Conklin, Milton Hay, Leonard Swett, Asahel Gridley, Lawrence Weldon, Benjamin S. Edwards and a coterie of other brilliant attorneys.

The first Logan County court house was at Postville now in the southwest part of Lincoln. This building was purchased in 1929 by Henry Ford and stands in Greenfield Village at Dearborn, Michigan. The State has reproduced this building on its original site where it stands as a state memorial.

Court sessions were held in Postville between 1840 and 1848. In 1847 the booming town of Mt. Pulaski, named for Count Casimir Pulaski of Revolutionary War fame, offered a business block and a new building as an inducement to move the county seat. The Mt. Pulaski backers won the resulting election. To build the court house the citizens raised \$2,700 which was supplemented by a county appropriation of \$300.

The court house, which is 70% intact today, served the county until 1853 when the county seat by legislation was moved to Lincoln. This thriving new community was named for the Springfield lawyer who was a trusted friend and attorney of the town's founders.

The Mt. Pulaski Court House was used as a schoolhouse until 1878, then as a city hall and jail, and finally as a post office and headquarters for various town officials. In 1936 it was acquired as a state memorial from the city of Mt. Pulaski and restoration work was begun.

In the restoration the state removed the partitions put in the building over the years thus giving it its original arrangement, took down the schoolhouse cupola and bell and restored the front door to its original appearance.

On removing the floor on the second story the original floor was found underneath intact with the holes for the spindles used in the judge's stand. On this floor the court and juror rooms are as when the structure was built.

In recent years the state has gradually been acquiring furniture proper for a court house of this period looking forward to the day when it will have the appearance it had in Lincoln's day. An interesting item is the gavel used by Judge David Davis when he held court here.

The late Judge Lawrence B. Stringer of Lincoln wrote of several interesting cases held in the court house in which Abraham Lincoln participated and one he called the "Horological Cradle."

ANOTHER PART OF THE YESTERYEAR FAIR

MT. PULASKI COURT HOUSE



Decatur, Illinois, September 1, 1971 Page 7-A

"Another famous case tried by Mr. Lincoln at Mt. Pulaski was what was known as the 'horological cradle case.' The cause involved the trade of an alleged patent on a cradle for a valuable tract of land.

"The patent as described by Mr. Lincoln in his declaration was 'a cradle, rocked by machinery, with weights running on pulleys, the cradle the pendulum and which being wound up would rock itself until it ran down, thus saving time to mothers and nurses.' Lincoln operated the cradle in open court and when Judge Davis asked, 'how the thing could be stopped when desirable,' Mr. Lincoln replied:

"It's like some of the glib talkers you and I know, Judge, it won't stop until it runs down."

"Mr. Lincoln took the cradle to his office in Springfield, where he operated it in his leisure time. Exhibiting it to John W. Bunn, a Springfield banker, upon Bunn asking the same question as Davis, Lincoln made a similar reply. At the same term of court, Mr. Lincoln tried another patent case involving a 'cast-iron tombstone.'

The Mt. Pulaski courtroom saw much of Lincoln who for nearly a quarter of a century rode the circuit, first as a partner of John T. Stuart, later as an associate of Stephen T. Logan, and finally as a senior member of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon, a partnership dissolved by Lincoln's assassination.

One of Mt. Pulaski's leading attorneys was Samuel C. Parks and also associated with him. Parks gathered the cases and Lincoln joined him in the trials. Lincoln had similar associations in other counties.

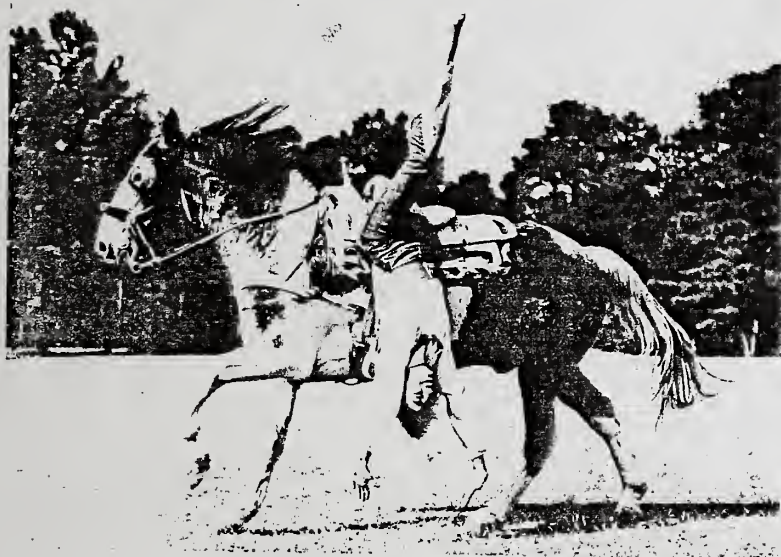
During most of his career at the bar Lincoln spent nearly half his time away from Springfield riding from county to county, at first on a horse he groomed himself, later in a rig, and trying cases throughout a territory that at one time or another took in the counties of Logan, McLean, Tazewell, DeWitt, Vermillion, Champaign, Woodford, Mason, Sangamon, Christian, Moultrie, Shelby, Edgar and Piatt.

By turn, moody and ebullient, cracking jokes and fraternizing or sitting alone, Lincoln was one of the most popular of the itinerant company of barristers who traveled the circuit.

Over the entire area, which took in one-fifth of the State of Illinois, his was familiar figure. Gaunt, tall, with disproportionately long legs and unusually large hands and feet, he cared little for personal appearance, but was recognized for his sound knowledge, his common-sense and his endless store of wit.

Historians agree that these years at Mt. Pulaski, Metamora and other towns on this route, had much to do with his later greatness.

RODEO AT FAIRGROUNDS



Saturday and Sunday, September the 18th and 19th, at the Mocon County Fairgrounds, located in northwest Decatur just off Rt. 121 will be held Henson's Silver Dollar Rodeo of Yesteryear Fair at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, price \$1.50 general admission adults, \$1.00 children; reserved seats \$2.00. Although notional rodeo stars will be competing for prize money in the saddle broncs, barebacks, Brohmo bulls, calf roping, and bulldogging events, it will also include trick riding, quadrille or dance on horseback, trick horses, clowns, clown dog and pony acts, horse and pony races, jumping horses, Roman-style riding, climaxing with chariot races. On Saturday night a red hot finish -- the burning of the covered wagon. The show has a cost of 40 people and 100 head of stock combined for two hours of thrills and spills.

BENEFIT PONY SHOW

The Decatur Humane Society Benefit Pony Show will be held September 25-26. Starting time for each show is 9:30 a.m. Admission is free to the public. All proceeds will go to the Decatur Humane Society. Showgrounds are located at the Decatur Trailriders Clubhouse on Lost Bridge Road.

On September 25 the Western Pony Show will be held with judging by Virgil Rotz of Warrensburg. Classes include geldings and stallions, any age; POA geldings and stallions, any age; POA mares and fillies, any age; Paint pony geldings and stallions, any age; Paint pony mares and fillies, any age; Model pony-open; Pleasure Pony 46" and under; Pleasure Pony 47" and over; POA Pleasure pony; Paint Pleasure pony; Stock seat equitation; Western costume class and Pony Reining.

On September 26 the English Pony Show will be held. Classes include: Fine Harness Pony-Lady or child to drive; Hackney Pony in Harness, 51" and under; Draft Pony Hitch to Wagon, team of 2; Pony Hunter over Fences, not to exceed 2 1/2'; Roadster Pony, 46" and under, with colors, to bike; Hackney Pony in Har-

ness 51" and over; Pony Hunter under saddle; Three-gaited English Pleasure Pony; Fine Harness Pony, open; Roadster Pony, 50" and under, with colors, to bike; Draft Pony Hitch to Wagon, team of 4; Pony Handy Hunter, fences not to exceed 2 1/2'; Special Draft Pony Hitch Class-any number over 4 in team; English Pleasure Pony Performance-obedience; Costume Class-any costume except one with a Western theme; English Equitation-Saddle Seat or Hunt Seat, pony and rider to be suitably tacked and attired.

The rules include: 1) Decatur Humane Society and all persons affiliated with the production of this show will not be held responsible for any accident, 2) sponship for any accident, injury to, or loss of any person, animal, or property on the premises. 2) Entry fee in each class is \$3.00; an office charge of \$1.00 per pony entered is payable with the entry fee. Post Entries accepted. 3) Judges decisions will be final. Cards will be posted. 4) This show is operated under American Horse Show Association Rules. Abuse of or cruelty to animals on the premises will cause dismissal from the show.

HISTORICAL SITES & STATUES IN DECATUR

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SPRINGFIELD, IL. 62703

2105 E. COOK ST.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

POSTAL

LINCOLNLAND



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

WE SALUTE THE POST OFFICE AT MOUNT PULASKI



In keeping with our Lincolnland theme this month we salute the Post Office at Mount Pulaski. The information is furnished by Harry Van Hook, Postmaster.

The post office at Mount Pulaski was established March 27, 1837 in a log cabin one and one-half mile south of the city and was named Scroggin, Sangamon County, Ill. One year later, the name was changed to Mount Pulaski and the post office was moved to a two story log cabin at the present site of the city, which then had a population of 300.

In 1848, the county seat was moved to Mount Pulaski and a brick courthouse was built by the citizens of the city.

Abraham Lincoln, as a young lawyer, rode on horseback from town to town on the 8th Judicial Circuit. He tried many cases (before Judge David Davis) in this courthouse. The famous Lincoln "horological cradle" case was tried at Mount Pulaski.

Starting in 1856 the courthouse was used as a schoolhouse until 1877. The post office was then moved into the old courthouse until 1936 when the State of Illinois restored the building and made it a Lincoln Shrine. The post office was moved into a brick building on the west side of the square until January 1, 1963 when a new leased facility was built for the Postal Service.

The Mount Pulaski post office serves a city population of 1,732 and has a total of 3,420 customers, including two rural routes. It is a second class office with receipts last year of \$39,832.54.

Abraham Lincoln had a private post office box when he lived in Springfield. The Springfield Post Office was remodeled in 1858 and the box was moved to Mount Pulaski. It is now in the Abe Lincoln Shrine in that city.

The people of Mount Pulaski feel that they are walking in the tall shadow of a great President, Lawyer, POSTMASTER, and man . . . Abe Lincoln.

EDITORIAL

Our first newsletter brought many favorable comments, both from the employees at the Springfield Post Office and Postmasters at associate offices.

These comments were certainly appreciated and we sincerely hope that this monthly publication will serve the purpose for which it was intended — to publish articles of interest to our entire postal family.

We are proud of our masthead which features "Lincoln as Postmaster" and certainly adds to the elegant makeup of our publication.

Again, we solicit items for publication from employees of the Springfield Post Office as well as Postmasters from our Associate Offices. Send them to: Postmaster, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

We have listened to Postmaster General Klassen's statements of March 29 outlining policies of the U. S. Postal Service concerning courtesy to our customers, service improvement, cost reduction and actions to be taken to achieve these goals. We join with all of you in pledging our support of these policies.

The thousands of dedicated employees will play a vital role in building a U. S. Postal Service that is responsive to our customers' needs with standards of service that meet or exceed 95% "next-day delivery" goals.

All of us working together, with trust and confidence, as a team can produce a level of service and efficiency unsurpassed in Post Office annals.

NEW MONEY ORDER SYSTEM

The U. S. Postal Service announced plans for an improved money order system.

This system will improve service to the public by reducing issuance time, by offering a modern paper check-style money order and an improved customer receipt.

The receipt will contain all pertinent information regarding the money order, such as the serial number, the date of issue, the office of issue, face amount, and the payee and payer names and addresses.

Tests of the new system will start about October 1, 1972, followed by operational introduction on a regional basis in February 1973. Total nationwide conversion will be completed July 1, 1973.

PERSONALS

Congratulations to Harold E. Stephens, newly appointed postmaster at Havana. He was first appointed as a temporary substitute carrier in 1948 at Rushville and was assistant to the Postmaster in that city before being named Officer in Charge at Havana some 30 months ago.

Congratulations to Robert L. Toliver and William G. Tiskos, clerks at the Springfield Post Office who have recorded their 10th consecutive 100% scheme examination. Allyn E. Crouse recorded his 9th. Other clerks who recently completed 100% scheme exams are Louis E. Walls, Bernard T. Goulet and Willard Dean.

Our sincere sympathies to Richard C. Groesch, assistant postmaster at the Springfield Post Office, and his family in the death of his sister, Ruth.

**NOTICE TO DRIVER: DRIVE COURTEOUSLY;
OBSERVE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS;
PROTECT CHILDREN**

mount
pulaski
courthouse

STATE HISTORIC SITE



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mount pulaski courthouse

STATE HISTORIC SITE



THE COURTHOUSE

Mt. Pulaski Courthouse is a two-story brick building, standing today as it did in Lincoln's time. The courthouse is an excellent example of Greek revival architecture as found in Illinois.

The first Logan County courthouse was at Postville now in the southwest part of Lincoln. The Postville Courthouse was purchased in 1929 by Henry Ford and stands in Greenfield Village at Dearborn, Michigan. The state has reproduced this building on its original site where it stands as a state memorial.

Court sessions were held in Postville between 1840 and 1848. In 1847 the booming town of Mt. Pulaski, named for Count Casimir Pulaski of Revolutionary War fame, offered a business block and a new building as an inducement to move the county seat. The Mt. Pulaski backers won the resulting election. To build the courthouse, the citizens raised \$2,700 which was supplemented by a county appropriation of \$300.

The courthouse served the county until 1855 when the county seat, by legislation, was moved to Lincoln. This thriving new community was named for the Springfield lawyer who was a trusted friend and attorney for the town's founders.

RESTORATION

The Mt. Pulaski Courthouse was used as a schoolhouse until 1878, then as a city hall and jail, and finally as a post office and headquarters for various town officials. In 1936 it was acquired as a state memorial from the city of Mt. Pulaski and restoration work was begun.

In the restoration the state removed the partitions put in the building over the years thus giving it its original arrangement, took down the schoolhouse cupola and bell, and restored the front door to its original appearance.

On removing the floor on the second story the original floor was found underneath intact with the holes for the spindles used in the judge's stand. On this floor the court and juror rooms are as when the structure was built.

Gradually the historians have found furniture

used in this period and once again the historic Mt. Pulaski Courthouse has the appearance it had in Lincoln's day, including most of the law books and the gavel used by Judge David Davis when he held court here. The jail in the basement has not been restored.

LINCOLN AT MT. PULASKI

Cradle Case: Many interesting cases were heard in the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse on the old Eighth Circuit. A famous case tried by Abraham Lincoln at Mt. Pulaski was what was known as the "horological cradle" case. The case involved the trade of an alleged patent on a cradle for a valuable tract of land.

The patent as described by Mr. Lincoln in his declaration was "a cradle, rocked by machinery, with weights running on pulleys, the cradle was the pendulum and which being wound up would rock itself until it ran down, thus saving time to mothers and nurses." Lincoln operated the cradle in open court and when Judge Davis asked, "how the thing could be stopped when desirable," Mr. Lincoln replied, "It's like some of the glib talkers you and I know, Judge, it won't stop until it runs down."

Partners: The Mt. Pulaski courtroom saw much of Lincoln who for nearly a quarter of a century rode the circuit, first as a partner of John T. Stuart, later as an associate of Stephen T. Logan and finally as a senior member of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon, a partnership later dissolved by Lincoln's assassination.

One of Mt. Pulaski's leading attorneys, Samuel C. Parks, was also associated with Lincoln. Parks gathered the cases and Lincoln joined him in the trials. Lincoln had similar associations in other counties.

THE CIRCUIT COURT SYSTEM

Illinois' circuit court system, adopted in 1839, was patterned after that of Kentucky. The state was divided into multi-county circuits, each with a judge who traveled from county to county within his jurisdiction until he completed the judicial business of each county. Court sessions

sometimes lasted as long as six weeks at a county seat.

Following the same route were groups of traveling lawyers who met with their clients on courthouse lawns, under nearby trees or on the public streets. At night they gathered convivially in village inns. Some of these men had been well educated in the east, while others, like Lincoln, had little formal training. "Circuit-riding" provided a real test of an attorney's legal skill and wisdom. Attorneys of Lincoln's day served a thinly scattered population and had to ride the circuit in order to make a living.

Eighth Judicial Circuit: It was a hard life with small fees, pioneer living conditions and extensive, difficult travel. The Eighth Judicial Circuit, for example, was very large, at one time encompassing 11,000 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Maryland.

There were periodic alterations, but none of these appreciably reduced the circuit's size during the time Lincoln followed the route regularly.

Lincoln labored on the Eighth Circuit full time for a dozen years and on a part time basis for several more, but he seemed to thrive in that environment. His famous story telling sessions, the close friendships he formed and the political contacts he made in those years apparently compensated him for the weary hours of travel, the poor food and inferior lodging. Except for the two years he served in Congress, he devoted at least half of each year to circuit traveling until he became President.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Nearby Lincoln points of interest are the Lincoln Home, the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Tomb, all in Springfield. Other state parks and memorials involving Lincoln include Metamora Courthouse, Postville Courthouse, Vandalia Statehouse, Lincoln Log Cabin, Railsplitter State Park, Lincoln Trail, Lincoln Trail Homestead, Lincoln's New Salem, Lincoln Monument and Lincoln Trail Monument.

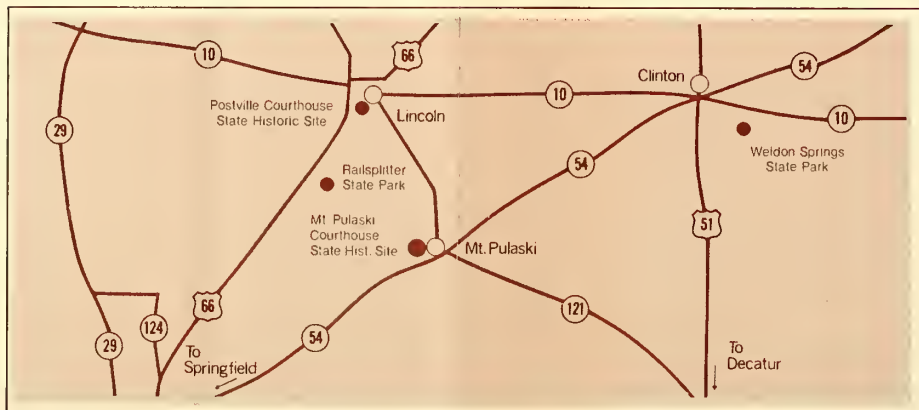
For further information concerning Illinois State Historic Sites write to the Department of Conservation, 405 E. Washington, Springfield, IL 62706.



Lincoln Tableau relives early courthouse scene.



Actor portraying Abe Lincoln

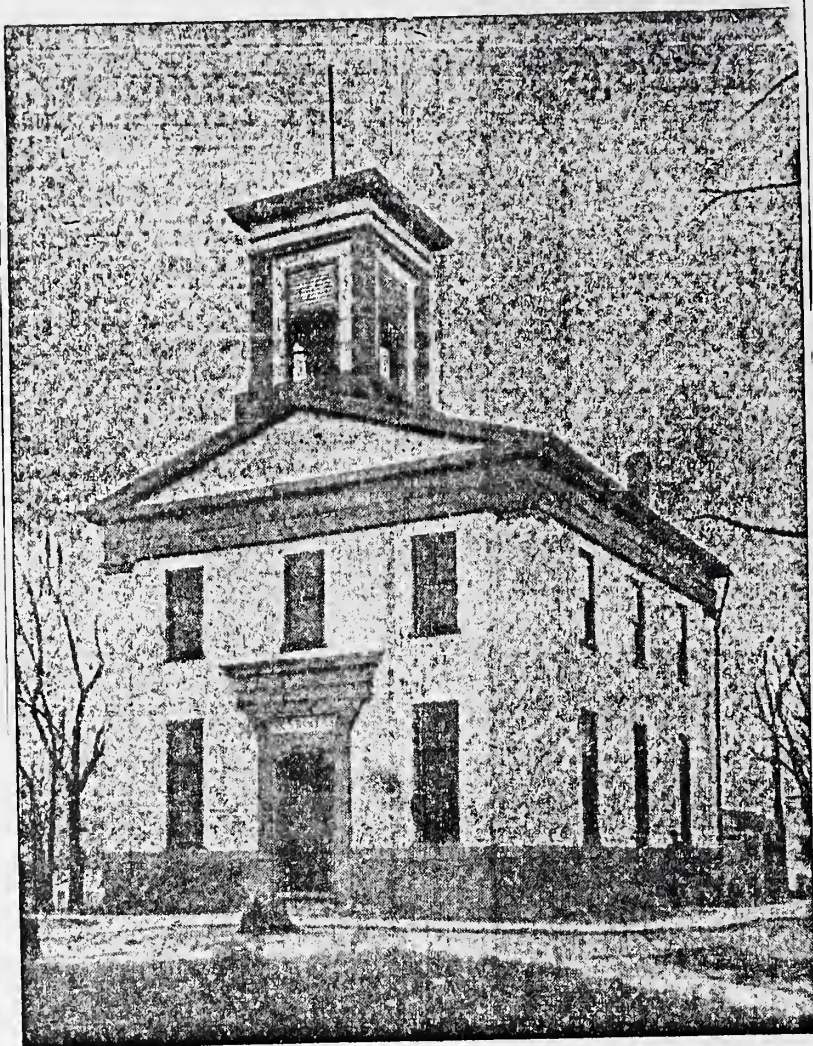


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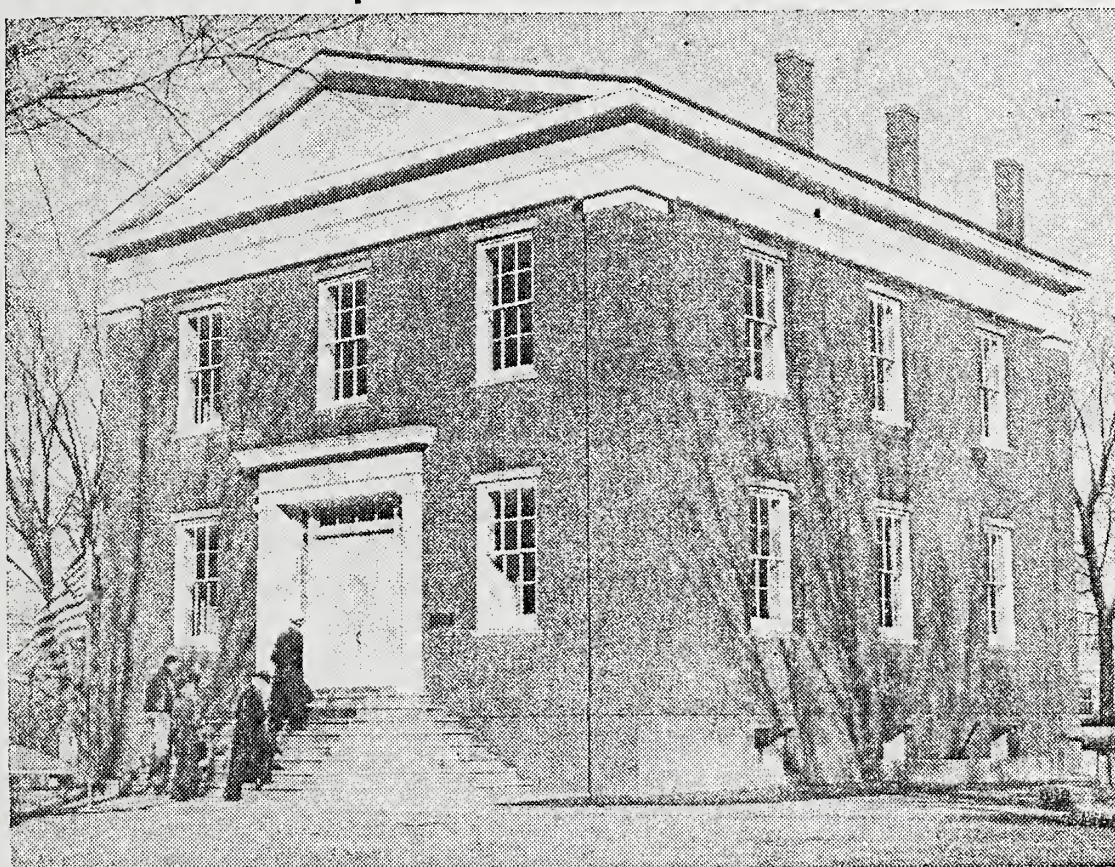
Where Lincoln Practiced Law



The old courthouse at Mt. Pulaski, shown above, used for many years as a postoffice and for police headquarters, is now the property of the state and is being restored as a Lincoln memorial. Mt. Pulaski was one of the many towns visited by Lincoln as he traveled the eighth judicial circuit, and he practiced in this building from 1848 (when the county seat was removed from Postville) until 1855, when the city Lincoln became the Logan county seat.

Lincoln Shrine Restored.
Extortion Attempt.

IN PICTURES



IN THIS PLAIN BRICK STRUCTURE, the old Courthouse at Mt. Pulaski, Ill., Abraham Lincoln once argued cases. The building was opened to the public on Lincoln's birthday, Sunday, for the first time since its purchase by the state in 1936. It has been restored to its original state. The building was erected in 1848; used as a Courthouse until 1855, when the county seat was moved to Lincoln, later being used as a school, jail, post office and town hall. (Associated Press.)

Mt. Pulaski Shrine

State Is Restoring Former Logan Courthouse, Where
Lincoln Practiced On Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Mt. Pulaski, June 29.—The name of Abraham Lincoln is revered and held sacred by the citizens of Mt. Pulaski, not only because of his honesty and sincerity but also because his public career, in a way, had its beginning here and his memory is being perpetuated in this little city where is located one of the two courthouses, still standing in the state, where many of his legal triumphs were won.

The courthouse, which stands in the center of the public square, was built in 1847, and was the second courthouse built in Logan county. The first was at Postville, then the county seat, now a part of the city of Lincoln. The Postville courthouse was sold a few years ago to Henry Ford who moved the building to Michigan.

The county seat was removed from Postville to Mt. Pulaski in 1848 and this city continued as the county seat until 1855 when it was moved to Lincoln. The old courthouse building in Mt. Pulaski, recently deeded to the state of Illinois, stands on one of the highest points in the county. Plans have been prepared and actual work has started, to restore the building as far as possible, to its original condition, and when completed it will be maintained by the state of Illinois as a Lincoln memorial.

Served Many Uses.

The old building has been put to many uses since the removal of the county seat to Lincoln. By an act of the legislature in 1857, the building and grounds was turned over to a board of trustees of the school district and for many years thereafter it was used for school purposes. A few changes were made to the interior but no alterations were made to exterior for a number of years. Many of the older citizens received their education in the building, among them being G. C. Zah, the present custodian of the building and grounds.

In later years, as the population of the city increased and larger school quarters were needed, the district erected a school building in the eastern part of the city and the courthouse was abandoned for school purposes in 1878. For a few years thereafter, the building was used for various purposes including a jail, office of police magistrate and police headquarters and about fifty years ago half of the ground floor was leased by the government for post-office purposes. A few years later, the entire lower floor was converted to the use of the postoffice.

On Feb. 1, 1936, the postoffice, police magistrate and police headquarters changed locations and the building was turned over to the state of Illinois.

Was Legion Headquarters.

The upper floor, where was located

the courtroom in which Abraham Lincoln pleaded cases, has been used in later years as a meeting place for civic organizations and was again used for school purposes in the winter of 1911 after the destruction by fire of the combined Mt. Pulaski High and grade school.

The Mt. Pulaski library also used part of the upper floor for several years and the band headquarters also was maintained there. A year or two after the close of the World war, Ryman-Fuiten post, American Legion, established their headquarters on the upper floor of the building and they were the last tenants to vacate the building.

The Mt. Pulaski courthouse is a two-story and basement brick building and is in an excellent state of preservation. It cost \$3,000. Of this sum \$2,700 was raised by popular subscription and \$300 was given by the county. It is historic because within its walls several of the men of that day, who later became nationally famous, met in legal combat, including Abraham Lincoln who appeared more often in this building than any other in the county, and Stephen A. Douglas, who appeared in no other courthouse in the county.

Natives Recall Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was a familiar figure in Mt. Pulaski during court sessions of the Eighth judicial district and is remembered by at least two persons who came in personal contact with him. John C. Mier, now in his ninety-sixth year, a native of this city and its last surviving Civil war veteran, remembers Mr. Lincoln very distinctly, mainly, because Lincoln defended and cleared a group of boys, among them being Mr. Mier, for a prank that almost proved serious to the victim of the prank.

Another citizen who remembers him is Mrs. Jane Holler, now in her eighty-ninth year, who when a girl in her early teens, has a vivid recollection of meeting and shaking hands with both Lincoln and Douglas at a Douglas political rally held in the city of Lincoln in 1858.

In addition at Mt. Pulaski lives one of the nearest living relatives of Abraham Lincoln—Mrs. Susan Upp, whose mother, Mrs. Sarah Lincoln Morris, was a third cousin of the Civil war president.









Mt. POLASKI, Ill.

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

